

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2450

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4637

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XR

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA-GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF SYRIA, ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM

1. SUMMARY - FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM DEVOTED OVER TWO-THIRDS
OF HIS SPEECH TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND MOST OF THAT WAS A
VIGOROUS DENUNCIATION OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT IN
PARTICULAR AND THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH GENERALLY. IN A
DETAILED ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND ITS RIGHT TO BEAT THE UN, HE
OUTLINED ISRAEL'S "DEFIANCE OF THE UN CHARTER AND CONTEMPT
OF ITS RESOLUTIONS," AND CHARGED IT WITH SUBJECTING ARAB
INHABITANTS TO OPPORESSION EXCEEDING THAT "PURSUED BY NAZISM."
ASSERTING THAT ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN WAS CONDITIONED
AS A RESULT OF GA RESOLUTION 273, KHADDAM STATED THAT THIS
RESOLUTION "MUST BE RECONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF ISRAEL'S NON-
COMPLIANCE" AND ARGUED THAT ISRAEL "DOES NOT DESERVE BEING
A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY." HE CRITICIZED
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ISRAEL FOR CONCEALING "HER EXPANSIONIST INTENTIONS"

BEHIND THE DEMAND FOR SECURE BOUNDARIES AND NOTED THE FAILURE OF THE UN TO COMPEL ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. TURNING TO POSSIBLE PEACE SETTLEMENTS, KHADDAM REJECTED ANY APPROACH THAT OMITTED THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND RECALLED THAT SYRIA NEVER BELIEVED IN THE "SOUNDNESS" OF THE STEP-BY-STEP METHOD. HE ATTACKED THE SINAI AGREEMENT FOR "MOVING US FARTHER FROM THE ROAD TO PEACE," FOR PAVING THE WAY FOR A US MIDDLE EAST PRESENCE AND MAKING IT A MAIN PARTY TO THE DISPUTE, FOR UNDERMINING ARAB SOLIDARITY, AND FOR PERMITTING "THE AGGRESSOR TO PERSIST WITH HIS EXPANSIONIST POLICY." HE QUESTIONED HOW ANY AGREEMENT WHICH ENTAILED THE SUPPLY OF MISSILES TO ISRAEL THAT COULD REACH ARAB COUNTRIES AND PROVIDED "BILLIONS OF US DOLLARS THROUGH BLACKMAIL" COULD CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE. IN CONCLUSION, KHADDAM DECLARED THAT ANY TALKS ABOUT THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN TERRITORIES "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARTIAL STEPS POLICY I NOT FOUNDED ON A PRACTICAL BASIS." PEACE WOULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF ISRAEL'S UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND ITS UNDERTAKING TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DEVOTING OVER TWO-THIRDS OF HIS SPEECH TO THE MIDDLE EAST, KHADDAM STRESSED THAT "IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PUT AN END TO ISRAEL'S ACTS THAT ARE BASED ON DOMINATION, EXPANSION, AND CHALLENGE OF THE UN CHARTER AND FLOUTING UN RESOLUTIONS." HE FIRST PRESENTED A DETAILED ATTACK ON ISRAEL. HE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION INTO THE AREA AND THE ARAB EXODUS TO HIGHLIGHT "ISRAEL'S EXPANSIONIST AND AGGRESSIVE NATURE, WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED." HE ALSO OUTLINED ISRAEL'S "DEFIANCE OF THE UN CHARTER AND CONTEMPT OF ITS RESOLUTIONS," AND CHARGED ISRAEL WITH VIOLATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ARAB INHABITANTS AND ORIENTAL JEWS, WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO OPPRESSION EXCEEDING THAT "PURSUED BY NAZISM."

3. TURNING TO ISRAEL'S ADMISSION TO THE UN, KHADDAM RECALLED THAT IT WAS LINKED BY RESOLUTION 273 (MAY 11, 1949)

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TO TWO CONDITIONS: ISRAEL HAD TO "HONOR" THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE UN CHARTER AND IMPLEMENT RESOLUTIONS 181 (NOVEMBER 29, 1947) AND 194 (DECEMBER 11, 1948) "RELATED TO THE NECESSITY OF ALLOWING THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES." SINCE "ISRAEL HAS NOT FULFILLED ANY OF THEM," KHADDAM ARGUED THAT "THE CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION ENDORSING ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP MUST, AFTER AN EXPERIENCE OF OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, BE

RECONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF ISRAEL'S NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS" OF RESOLUTION 273. ISRAEL "DOES NOT DESERVE BEING A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY."

4. ON THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE, KHADDAM ACCUSED ISRAEL OF URING THE "SLOGAN OF SECURE BOUNDARIES" TO "CONCEAL HER EXPANSIONIST INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP HOLD OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES." HE RECALLED THE FAILURE OF UN EFFORTS TO COMPEL ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW AND EXPLAINED THAT THE ARABS WERE THUS LEFT WITH "ONLY ONE RECOURSE," THE OCTOBER WAR. KHADDAM LAMENTED THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT "LEARNT FROM THE LESSONS OF THE OCTOBER WAR" SINCE IT STILL REFUSED BOTH TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED LAND AND TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (CONTRARY TO THE "WILL" OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EXPRESSED IN RESOLUTION 3236).

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5. KHADDAM DESCRIBED THE TYPE OF PEACE SYRIA SOUGHT, AND

VIGOROUSLY CRITICIZED BOTH THE STEP-BY STEP METHOD AND THE SINAI AGREEMENT. HE ENVISAGED A PEACE WHICH "SECURES A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION FOR OUR CAUSE ON THE BASIS OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS," ADDING THAT "ANY ATTEMPT THAT DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM, THAT IS, THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND THEIR EXPULSION FROM THEIR HOMELAND, SHALL BE DOOMED TO FAIL." KHADDAM THEN ASSERTED "WE HAVE NEVER BELIEVED IN THE SOUNDNESS OF THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY...BECAUSE SUCH A POLICY IGNORES THE UNITY OF THE CAUSE." HE CRITICIZED THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL AGREEMENT FOR "MOVING US FARTHER FROM THE ROAD TO PEACE" AND REJECTED ATTEMPTS TO CONFRONT SYRIA WITH A CHOICE BETWEEN "THE CONTINUATION OF THE STALEMATE" OR "ACCEPTING PARTIAL AND INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS" CONCLUDED AT THE EXPENSE OF "OUR PEOPLE". HE SAID "WE WILL NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SINAI AGREEMENT." THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, HE CONTINUED, "MUST BE MADE OUTSIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DECEIVING FRAMEWORK THAT ENCIRCLES THE SINAI AGREEMENT AND THE ENTAILING COMMITMENTS AND UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY THE GODFATHERS OF THE AGREEMENT TO SULLY ISRAEL WITH THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS." HE QUESTIONED HOW THE SINAI AGREEMENT COULD BRING PEACE. IT ENTAILED THE SUPPLY OF MISSILES WHICH COLD REACH THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND THE PROVISION "THROUGH BLACKMAIL, OF BILLIONS OF US DOLLARS" TO ISRAEL. IT ALSO PAVED THE WAY FOR A US PRESENCE IN THE AREA, THUS MAKING THE US "A MAIN PARTY TO THE CONFLICT WITH ALL THE DANGERS UNDERLYING SUCH PRESENCE" AS REVEALED BY VIETNAM. KHADDAM FURTHER CRITICIZED THE AGREEMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE SOLIDARITY OF "OUR PEOPLE," FOR PERMITTING "THE AGRESSOR" TO PERSIST WITH "HIS EXPANSIONIST POLICY," FOR IGNORING THE "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, FOR "BOOSTING ISRAEL'S ARROGANCE" IN DEFIANCE OF THE UN, AND FOR BEING CONCLUDED OUTSIDE THE UN FRAMEWORK AN AGAINST "THE WILL OF OUR ARAB NATION." IN HIS CONCLUSION, KHADDAM RECALLED THE "FATE OF THE AGREEMENTS ON INDO-CHINA, PARTICULARLY THE PARIS AGREEMENTS," IN CONNECTION WITH THE SINAI AGREEMENT.

6. REFERRING TO POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE "OCCUPIED SYRIAN TERRITORIES," KHADDAM DECLARED THAT "ANY TALK ON THIS SUBJECT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARTIAL STEPS POLICY IS NOT FOUNDED ON A PRACTICAL BASIS" BECAUSE SYRIA REFUSED TO SEPARATE ITS CAUSE FROM "THE CAUSE OF PALESTINE." PEACE COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TWO PRINCIPLES: (1) ISRAEL'S UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL FRO ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED DURING THE 1967 WAR; AND (2) ISRAEL'S

"UNDERTAKING" TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S UN RESOLUTIONS
ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION (GA RESOLUTIONS 3236 AND 3237).

7. ON OTHER ISSUES, KHADDAM REVIEWED "THE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLES FOR
INDEPENDENCE," WELCOMING THE VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF
INDOCHINA, DONOUNCING THE POLICY WHICH BLOCKED THE
ADMISSION OF THE VIETNAMS, HAILING THE STRUGGLE OF THE
PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND "DECLARING " "FULL SUPPORT"
FOR THE "JUST STRUGGLE" OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR
NATIONAL UNITY. HE DEMANDED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN
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RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER "IMPERIALIST
ATTEMPTS AND MANEUVERS AIMED AT TRANSFORMING THE ISLAND
INTO A NATO BASE." HE ALSO CALLED ON SPAIN TO "EXPEDITE
ITS EVACUATION OF THIS ARAB TERRITORY (THE SAHARA)" AND
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF MOROCCO TO SOLVE
THE DISPUTE.

8. HE WELCOMED THE CSCE, BUT EMPHASIZED THE FRAGILITY
OF EUROPEAN SECURITY WITHOUT A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE
EAST.

9. DECLARING THAT "IT IS HIGH TIME" FOR INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, KHADDAM URGED
THE CREATION OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, PARTICULARLY
IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND MONETARY RELATIONS
AND FINANCIAL AND TECNHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. HE SUPPORTED
THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWO SPECIAL SESSION AS WELL AS THOSE
OF LIMA, AND URGED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 6TH SPECIAL
SESSION WORK PROGRAM "REAFFIRMED" BY THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION
AND THE CERDS. HE WARNED THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CONFERENCE WHICH LIMITED DISCUSSION TO ENERGY ISSUES AND
EXCLUDED OTHER RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS WOULD BE "DOOMED
TO FAIL."

10. EGYPT EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO REPLY IN RESPONSE TO
THE SYRIAN SPEECH AND SYRIA SUBSEQUENTLY RESPONDED TO
EGYPT. THESE STATEMENTS ARE BEING REPORTED IN A SEPARATE
CABLE.
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